



# News Release

## WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Public Affairs Office  
2400 Wright Street  
Madison, WI 53704

Contact: Lt. Col. Tim Donovan  
608-242-3050

January 21, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **West Bend-based Army National Guard members ordered to active duty**

About 60 members of the 832nd Medical Company, a Wisconsin Army National Guard air ambulance unit, have been ordered to active duty at the end of January for up to one year.

The West Bend-based unit has approximately 140 soldiers in Wisconsin and about 45 assigned to a detachment in the Delaware National Guard. Of the 60 soldiers called up, about 45 will be from Wisconsin. They will mobilize at the West Bend armory on Jan. 28 and will travel to Fort Lewis, Wash.

The unit's normal mission is to provide aeromedical evacuation and support, using UH-1 Huey helicopters. Six of the 832nd's aircraft will travel to Fort Lewis, which is expected to be the unit's duty station. Soldiers and helicopters from the unit could also be sent elsewhere, depending on the Army's needs.

The last time the 832nd Medical Company was called to active duty was in 1997, when it served at Forts Benning and Stewart, Georgia, to replace an active-duty air ambulance unit sent to the Balkans.

The activation is part of the partial mobilization of the Guard and Reserve ordered by President Bush last year in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. About 130,000 Guard and Reserve members nationwide have been called to active duty so far under the partial mobilization, supporting Operations ENDURING FREEDOM (overseas U.S. military operations to combat terrorism) and NOBLE EAGLE (homeland defense and security operations in the continental United States).

This will be the 15th mobilization of Wisconsin National Guard units since the end of the Gulf War in 1991. Four Army Guard and four Air Guard units from Wisconsin have already been called up for support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom over the past 16 months. In 1997, three Army Guard units from Wisconsin were mobilized in support of Balkans peacekeeping operations, and two Air Guard units were called up to support NATO air operations in Kosovo in May 1999. In 2001, one Army Guard unit was ordered to active duty to support operations in Bosnia and another for operations in Kuwait.

During the Persian Gulf crisis in 1990 and 1991, more than 1,400 Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard personnel from nine units were called to active duty.

Wisconsin currently has about 480 members of three Army National Guard units and three Air Guard units on active duty — down from a peak of 945 Wisconsin Army and Air Guard members who were on active duty at the end of March. More than 1,200 Wisconsin National Guard soldiers and airmen have served on active duty during the past 16 months.

# # # #